

What's New in the MPDC

DECEMBER 2, 2002

MPDC WRAPS UP "OPERATION IMPORT-EXPORT" TARGETING DRUG AND GUN TRAFFICKING IN NORTHWEST DC

Residents who have concerns about illegal drug trafficking in their communities are encouraged to contact either the Major Narcotics Branch at (202) 727-4166 or the Focused Mission Team (FMT) in their police district. To find out what police district you live in and the phone number of the FMT, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm

The MPDC this week announced the conclusion of "Operation Import-Export," a year-long, multi-agency enforcement initiative targeting illegal narcotics and gun trafficking in Northwest DC. In September 2001, members of the Major Narcotics Branch (MNB) obtained information, during an investigation, about illegal narcotics and gun trafficking by violent gangs in the Northwest quadrant. MNB members devised a plan to open a store in Northwest DC and pose as merchants interested in buying drugs and weapons. During the operation, investigators

identified a major East Coast illegal firearms trafficker who allegedly supplied area gangs with weapons. MNB undercover officers, working with members of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the Duplin County (NC) Sheriff's Department, traveled to North Carolina to purchase high-powered assault rifles and handguns that were destined for DC. Investigators also identified a major supplier of Methamphetamine believed to be working with a Mexican drug trafficking organization operating out of the southwestern section of the United States. The undercover operation resulted in 35 arrests, the recovery of more than 30 weapons, and the purchase or seizure of illegal drugs with a street value of approximately \$1.5 million. Read the complete news release:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

MPDC STRESSES SAFETY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

With the holiday shopping and travel season kicking into high gear, the MPDC reminds residents to "think safety" during this busy time of the year. Don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, because it can be opportune time for crime.

But there are simple steps you can take to help make your holidays safer and free of crime. The MPDC offers a variety of holiday safety tips – whether you're shopping, out for the evening or taking a trip out of town. And the holidays are also a time when scam artists may show up at your door, posing as delivery personnel or charity volunteers. The MPDC has tips for avoiding being ripped off. Finally, the holidays are a great time to take (or update) an inventory of household items, which can be extremely helpful if your home is burglarized. Get a detailed listing of holiday safety tips at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/winter.shtm

With more people than ever shopping on-line this holiday season, the potential for Internet fraud is increased. Learn more about the resources of the Internet Fraud Complaint Center by clicking on:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/netfraud.shtm

THANKSGIVING WEEK CHECKPOINTS REMIND MOTORISTS TO "CLICK IT OR TICKET"

During Thanksgiving Week 2002, Metropolitan Police officers issued hundreds of tickets and warnings, and inspected and gave away dozens of child safety seats, as part of a highly publicized nationwide crackdown on motorists who fail to buckle up themselves and – especially – their child passengers. As part of the national Operation ABC (America Buckles-up Children) Mobilization, the MPDC set up safety checkpoints throughout the week in all seven police districts. Drivers who were not buckled up themselves, or who had passengers who were properly secured, were issued tickets that generally carry a \$50 fine and 2 points on the driver's license. In addition, officers provided information to drivers about DC's new child passenger safety law, which for the first time, requires that children under the age of 8 be properly seated in an installed infant, toddler or booster child safety seat. Between now and December 22, MPDC officers will be issuing only warning citations to motorists who violate the new law, as part of a month-long public education campaign. The new law increases penalties for drivers who do not properly secure child passengers – from \$55 to \$75, plus 2 points, for a first offense. Increased fines will fund the Child Passenger Safety Program, under which the District Department of Transportation will establish at least one child passenger safety seat fitting station in each of the eight wards and children of low-income families will be provided with child restraint systems for free or at a minimal cost. DDOT and the MPDC gave away several free child safety seats during this week's mobilization. Get more information on DC laws governing seat belts and child passenger safety seats:

For details on DC's Child Passenger Safety Program, including the 14 current locations where child safety seats are distributed at a reduced rate, visit DDOT's Website at:

ddot.dc.gov/services/traffic_services/safety.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/cseatlaw.shtm

NEWS & NOTES

- **Fourth District Substation Open House:** Chief Ramsey and members of the Fourth Police District will welcome community leaders and residents to the newly opened Fourth District Substation (4D-1) during an Open House from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm on Wednesday, December 4. The substation, which serves PSAs in the lower end of 4D, is located at 750 Park Road NW, in the historic old "Precinct 10" building that has been dramatically restored.
- **Mayor's Forum on Crime and Prevention:** Residents will have a chance to learn what the District is doing to combat crime and violence in their communities – and to find out how residents can get involved as well – during Mayor Williams's Forum on Crime and Prevention. The event will take place from 6-9 pm on Thursday, December 12, at Dunbar Senior High School, 1301 New Jersey Avenue, NW. The event is free and open to the public. For information, call the Office of Community Outreach at (202) 442-8150.
- **New DMV Hours:** Because of budget cuts, beginning Monday, December 2, all DC Department of Motor Vehicles service centers—with the exception of the inspection station—will operate five days per week only. Saturday hours are being eliminated at all satellite service centers, although the main "C Street" facility will be open on Saturdays. However, "C Street" will now be closed on Mondays. Details are available on the DMV Website at: **dmv.dc.gov/about/111902.shtm**

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV